

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: NEWSMAN INTERVIEWS ROCAMORA

1. IN AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LA OPINION ON FEB. 2, INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA RESPONDED TO A WIDE RANGE OF VERY FRANK QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY NEWSMAN HERIBERTO KAHN. WHILE THE ANSWERS WERE CAUTIOUS, AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ROCAMORA WANTED TO TALK AND DID NOT DUCK ANY OF THE QUESTIONS. FULL TEXT WILL BE AIR POUCHED.

2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR POINTS MADE BY ROCAMORA: A. RUMORS. ROCAMORA ALLOWED THAT THE RUMORS CIRCULATING IN RECENT DAYS WERE GENERALLY EXAGGERATED. THE PRESIDENT MOVED TO PUNTA MOGOTES TO HAVE MORE PRIVACY AND BE ABLE TO REST. RUMORS RESULT FROM DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS GIVEN FACTS RECEIVED THE 3 CINC'S, THAT LOPEZ REGA LEFT THE RESORT FOR 2 OR 3 DAYS TO WORK, AND THAT MRS. PERON USED HER REST TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR. B. LOPEZ REGA. DESPITE RECENT CRITICISM FROM UCR LEADERS AND OTHERS, THE JOB OF PRIVATE SECRETARY HAS NOT BEEN CONVERTED INTO A SUPER MINISTRY. NO DECISION-MAKING POWER GOES WITH THE POSITION AND THE RECENT REORGANIZATION IS SIMPLY A RESTRUCTURING OF EXISTING FUNCTIONS. LOPEZ REGA
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IS DISLIKED, ACCORDING TO ROCAMORA, BECAUSE THE ROLE OF

PRIVATE SECRETARY AND CLOSEST CONFIDANT OF THE PRESIDENT
BRINGS HIM INTO CONFLICT WITH OTHERS. C. FREJULI BLOC.
POLITICAL CONDITIONS CHANGE AND THE OPPOSITION OF TODAY
COULD BE THE ALLIES OF TOMORROW AND VICE VERSA. D. ELECTIONS
IN INTERVENED PROVINCES. ELECTIONS IN MISIONES WILL BE HELD
IN APRIL OR EARLY MAY. ELECTIONS MAY BE HELD IN SANTA
CRUZ AND FORMOSA THIS YEAR AND SALTA AND MENDOZA NEXT
YEAR. ELECTIONS WILL, MOST LIKELY, NOT TAKE PLACE IN
CORDOBA UNTIL 1977 GENERAL ELECTIONS. E. ANTISUBVERSITN.
ROCAMORA DID NOT DENY THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL
ORDER TO THE ARMED FORCES INCREASING THEIR ROLE IN THE
ANTISUBVERSITN STRUGGLE.

2. COMMENT. THRUST OF INTERVIEW WOULD SEEM TO BE THAT
ROCAMORA'S STANDING HAS BEEN RAISED AND POSSIBLE DESIRE
TO SHOW THAT LOPEZ REGA'S PROFILE HAS BEEN LOWERED. HARD
EVIDENCE WILL BE NECESSARY TO PROVE THESE CHANGES TO BE
ANYTHING MORE THAN COSMETIC.
HILL

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